(b) the details of funds allocated and spent, during the last three years;

(c) the targets set and the achievements made in this regard, during the last three years;

(d) whether at present any proposals regarding agro-rural industries, from the Government of Rajasthan, are pending for consideration with the Centre; and

(e) if so, the details and status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The only Centrally-sponsored scheme implemented by the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, is the Scheme for Co-operativisation. This is implemented in the coir-producing States. Rajasthan is not a coir producing State. Hence the scheme is not implemented in Rajasthan.

Priority list of Infrastructure Committee

†1337. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the priority list of Infrastructure Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, does not cover important areas such as, agriculture and rural industries;

(b) whether it is a fact that Khadi Gramodyog, a leading agency in the field of rural employment, has turned defunct due to Government's apathetic attitude ;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor particularly regarding Khadi Gramodyog; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating a proposal to establish small scale industries alongwith agriculture in the villages on the lines of Japan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The National Rural Infrastructure Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has been entrusted the task of monitoring "Bharat Nirman", a time-bound programme (2005-09) for developing rural infrastructure, like irrigation, rural roads, drinking water, electrification, housing and telephone connectivity. Agriculture and rural industries do not fall in the category of "rural infrastructure".

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

(e) The Government does not set up small scale industries or khadi and village industries in villages. However, Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) implements two credit-linked subsidy schemes of employment generation, namely, (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by assisting entrepreneurs in setting up village industries, including cottage industries, in rural areas and small towns, and (ii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for creating employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the rural as well as urban areas (approximately fifty per cent of the PMRY units established are estimated to be in rural areas). Subsidy admissible to the beneficiaries of both these schemes is released through banks in combination with the loans provided by these banks.

Besides, Government, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, implements various other programmes for the development and promotion and khadi and village industries.

Schemes for agro and rural industries in Andhra Pradesh

1338. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new schemes and programmes have been implemented for the benefit of agro and rural industries in Andhra Pradesh, where farmers have committed suicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal to implement new schemes in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing a number of schemes throughout the country, including Andhra Pradesh. Of these, the most important are the two credit-linked subsidy schemes, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for creation of off-farm employment opportunities by assisting individual entrepreneurs, educated unemployed youths, self help groups, etc., in setting up village industries, including related business/service